Greater funding in higher education

578. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan panel has suggested greater funding in higher education and also increase in fees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the suggestion is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission, in its Mid-term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan has, *inter alia*, observed that 'in order to provide more resources for increasing access and improving quality, apart from a substantial increase in public funding increasing the fees paid by students is equally necessary.' However, the Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) on Financing of Higher and Technical Education, while recommending increase in public investments in higher education, has observed that students fees as percentage of revenues of higher educational institutions cannot be above a threshold level of 20 per cent, so that higher education is affordable.

While there is no proposal to increase student fees, the Plan Outlay for the University Grants Commission has been increased to Rs. 1269.80 crores for the year 2006-07 from Rs. 786.30 crores during the year 2005-06, which is an increase of around 61 per cent.

Allocation for higher education

579. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC has requested for enhancing the allocation for higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;